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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Committee for Coordination of Investigations
of the Lower Mekong Basin
(Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viêt-Nam)

STUDY OF THE ENERGY MARKET FOR HOUSEHOLD, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USES IN THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN

Quarterly Progress Report No.5

by

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I - INTRODUCTION

The study of the energy market for household, industrial and commercial uses in the four countries constituting the Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin has been provided for in the Plan of Operation published as document E/CN H/WRD/MKG/69 Rev 2 of 31/10/62.

Work began on 1st March 1963. It has been described for the period from 1st March 1963 to 29 February 1964 in quarterly Reports 1, 2, 3 and 4.

This report describes the work accomplished from 1st March 1964 to 31st May 1964.

II - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED

The activity of the Mission concentrated on the following points:

- processing and study of the results of the detailed investigations on electricity consumptions;
- preparation of points 1 and 2 of the reports concerning each country.

Special attention was given to Cambodia and Thailand.

The detailed description of work accomplished for Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viêt-Nam is given below.

CAMBODIA

After collecting the additional data needed, the final preparation of points 1 - 2 and 3 of the report could be undertaken during the quarterly period under review.

Population

All statistical data from the 1962 census have been studied. They are not complete but will nevertheless meet our requirements for the preparation of the previsions needed for the survey.

Primary, secondary and tertiary sectors

The statistical data collected enabled us to prepare several statistical series until 1963.

/ Gross

Gross domestic product

The survey conducted by I.N.S.E.E. experts on the evolution of the factors of the gross domestic product from 1958 to 1962 is completed and information in this field is now available.

Electrical energy

1 - PHNOM-PENH - KANDAL

A consumption survey (household lighting for the year 1963) enabled us to check upon and correct some of the trends indicated by similar studies made between 1958 and 1962. The consumption patterns of lighting consumers can thus be anticipated with more accuracy.

2 - COUNTRY

During the month of May the final data have been collected for:

- the production plants under E.D.C. management;
- the former licensees (régies);
- the new production plant of SIHANOUKVILLE, taken over by E.D.C. in June 1963.

3 - LICENSEES (régies)

The production and consumption statistics submitted by licensees are unreliable. In fact, in most cases, energy is sold on a flat rate basis as there are no meters. However, this is comparatively unimportant as the four licensees provide only 3% of Cambodia's total electricity production.

4 - SMALL PRODUCERS

The statistical data collected are somewhat lacking in accuracy owing to the lack of meters. But the 23 producers involved account for only 4% of Cambodia's total production. This lack of accuracy therefore is of little significance.

Self-producers

Only a few industrial concerns or planters replied to our questionaire and the importance of this sector cannot easily be inferred from the answers.

Preparation of points 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 of the report on Cambodia is under way.

/ LAOS

LAOS

The study of the data collected during the last visit of the Mission to Laos made it possible to consider the putting into shape the material received.

Later, the Mission received the gross results of the consumption study. We now have a fairly complete statement of electrical energy consumptions in Vientiane. It is possible to draw therefrom the factors needed for the study of future trends, and consequently to start upon the previsions phase.

Furthermore, the results of the survey on the installed powers of private producers have also been submitted. It thus would appear that the main factors which will serve as a basis for previsions have been gathered. This phase is to begin very soon. The visit which had been scheduled for the month of March has been deferred until June for the consumption surveys had not been completed in March. This means that the search for additional data would not have been as fruitful as possible.

THAILAND

The first part concerning the study of general economy and the corresponding previsions has, during the quarterly period under review, been put in its practically final form. Activities concentrated upon anticipations relating to overall economic factors, the development rates to be selected and the correlation of the figures given. This enabled us to lay a basis for the prevision of economic trends needed for the study of energy consumption in the future.

Study of consumptions

This last survey in now being conducted. As far as method is concerned, we separated the household consumption sector from the industrial or home-industries consumption sector. Furthermore, work is conducted separately for Bangkok and for the country.

A - BANGKOK AND AREA

/ 1 - Household

1 - Household consumption

As regards Bangkok and surrounding area, several consumption sampling surveys conducted in 1960 make it possible to know the structures of consumptions and consumers. On this basis, consumption trends can be established, consumers being classified according to their yearly consumptions. These consumer categories follow different development patterns.

2 - Industrial and trade consumption

We must make a distinction between industrial concerns proper and cottage industries. The commercial and cottage industry consumption seems to develop along lines similar to those of household consumption and the method used for anticipations can therefore be the same.

As to a purely industrial consumption, it is very recent and its development can hardly be studied in the same way. Consumption previsions are then based much more on industrial development prospects than on the study of a very limited background. A detailed study of industrial development prospects is therefore necessary.

B - THE COUNTRY

Separate Diesel plants provide energy for most consumption areas outside Bangkok. In this case, the development of electricity consumption can be inferred from past data, although these are generally scarce. However, new consumption centers come into existence owing to the construction of some thermal and hydraulic power plants. Each power plant can provide energy for a given area and the consequent reduction of rates may result in a much faster evolution of consumption patterns. This means that the survey has to be conducted along specific lines in each particular case: establishment of industries, importance of the area covered by the distribution network etc.....

Lastly, other data have been collected as regards the operation of the plants, their cost, etc... The study of points 1, 2 and 3 is proceeding normally.

VIET-NAM

The collection of statistical data has been carried on, but difficulties have been encountered and it seems necessary to check unreliable data on the spot and as they are collected.

Population

The demographic surveys of 1958 and 1962 on the Saigon and Cholon population meet the requirements of our study. But it has so far not been possible to gather additional information on the country population.

Primary, secondary and tertiary sectors

In these fields, a number of data are still to be collected while some others have to be checked upon. This work should be completed in the beginning of the month of July.

Gross domestic product

The investigations of the Banque Nationale du Viêt-Nam on the gross domestic product for the years 1960, 1961 and 1962 should be completed in the course of the month of June. It then will be possible, with the information already available (1955 and 1956) to know the former development pattern of the gross domestic product for the various sectors, and to draw conclusions for the future.

Electricity

Saigon Cholon - Northern provinces

The survey on household electricity consumptions in 1960 is now completed. Thus, on the basis of similar studies for the years 1954 and 1963, it has been possible to check upon and occasionally correct the trends of consumption, as previsions gained in accuracy.

Other centers

The similar study undertaken at HUE - DANANG - NHATRANG did not give the expected results for the breakdown of the lighting consumers has not been adequately covered. Furthermore, the O.N.D.E.E. did not provide so far information for the years before 1962.

/ The preparation

The preparation of the report will be undertaken when the data which are still missing have been collected. This phase should begin during or after the month of July.

III - ESTIMATED PROGRESS OF THE SURVEY

CAMBODIA

The progress percentage is about 65 %

LAOS

The progress percentage is about 40 %

THAILAND

The progress percentage is about 65 %

VIET-NAM

The progress percentage is about 50 %